

Personal News, Facts, Fancies and Brief Happenings Abroad as Told by the Cables

BRIEF RAISE
TELEPHONE COST,
ALREADY SOARING

Proposed Increased Tariff Starts Storm of Indignation in England.

POOR SERVICE IS RULE

Public Irritated at Having to Pay More for Inadequate Facilities.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, London, Jan. 15.

An increase in the tariff on telephones has started a storm of indignation throughout England and has brought a flood of complaints about the service, which so far has been running off the shoulders of officials like spring rain from a gable roof.

The costs of telephoning always have been high here, especially since the war. The number of instruments has been limited and they have been hard to obtain. The service is far inferior to which persons in America are accustomed to. And now, just at the time when all this is beginning to irritate the British public, the Postmaster-General has announced an astonishing increase in charges, amounting in some cases as much as 100 per cent. This act is being derided as a "bombshell thrown at trade and industry."

Cost of Calls Rising.

At present every call costs the equivalent of three cents, with an annual installation rental in London of 24s for exclusive and 12s for an auxiliary line. An additional charge is made if the distance is more than two miles from the exchange. Long distance calls have gone up in proportion. There also are restrictions on the "reasonable use of the telephone," which has brought up the argument as to what "reasonable" means. In a report the officials set forth that the maximum capacity of the lines without impairing its efficiency is 5,000 outward and 5,000 inward calls yearly. The new rates, which already are in effect, for new installation become operative on all telephones beginning April 1.

Americans who are complaining about their telephone service should find consolation in these figures, and they would almost be silenced if they knew how much worse than theirs the English service is. A feature about the flood of protests that are being published in the newspapers is the number of Americans from England who are familiar with conditions in the United States. Ordinarily such comparisons are odious to the British, but this time they add eloquence to the complaints.

Letters Make Comparisons.

Many of these letters tell in what an astonishingly short time good connections had been made in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia and other large cities. One irate reader writes to the editor of the Times that he has lived in Dallas, Texas, and that he has a fact that a man can step into almost any place of business in the city, and, although unknown, can use the telephone for nothing—nothing, I say.

In increasing the Postmaster-General acted upon the proposals by a departmental committee and on recommendations of a special committee of the House of Commons. The proposals are under Government control, and probably because of lack of competition not much effort is made to accommodate the public. It is impossible here to get a telephone installed in what in America would be considered a reasonable period. Instead it is often necessary to wait weeks and perhaps months.

A fact of course which is due to congestion since the war, but the British public is tired of that argument, especially now in the face of the new rate increases. The small users especially are hard hit by the new order, as those making fewer than 400 calls yearly are charged an average of 12 cents a call. Those who are protesting most loudly, however, are the business men, who say the rental increase will necessitate a curtailment in the number of telephones, which in turn will result in crippling business.

Outbursts of indignation are coming from all quarters and the press is unanimous in a campaign of protest, so it is likely that the question may be reconsidered, although as yet there is nothing to indicate such an attitude on the part of Government officials.

VISCOUNTESS ASTOR IS IN TUSSAUD'S GALLERY

Lord Northcliffe Also Enters 'Hall of Fame.'

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, London, Jan. 15.

Viscountess Astor and Viscount Northcliffe have been made permanent places in the ranks of the famous. Life-size portrait models of them having been set up in Mme. Tussaud's wax works here, the collection may be added to the old saying that no one is really famous until he or she has been reproduced at Tussaud's. The Prince of Wales and Princess Mary have been added to the collection. Lord Northcliffe's effigy holds a copy of the Daily Mail in its hands.

The place has been crowded daily of late as parents make it a point to take their children, home for the holidays, to Tussaud's for a liberal education. Certainly they couldn't take them to a better place in which to visualize their history. Among the many interesting figures is that of Louis XVI. Marie Antoinette and the Dauphin, which, although this here is not generally known, was modeled from life at Versailles by order of the unfortunate King. The strain was shown in the Grand Triumvir until the Reign of Terror broke loose.

Napoleon, warlike figure, is taking great interest in a number of new titles of the "Little Corporal," which have been added to the collection.

FRENCH REVOLT OR RIOTING
FEARED FROM CRIME WAVE

Year's Robbery Losses 34,000,000 Francs, Including Big Haul From Treasury Underground Vaults—Paris Police Force Enlarged to Combat Criminals.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Jan. 15.

Total losses from robberies and burglaries in Paris last year amounted to 34,000,000 francs. Of this 2,500,000 francs represents the losses of the French Ministry of Finance in Treasury bonds and 700,000 francs by forgeries of various kinds in connection with the drawing of soldiers' pay.

French sociologists are perturbed and declare that the increasing idleness and accumulation of debts are responsible for this crime wave, and that unless the crisis is solved by the Government, a revolution is anything from a revolution to a state of unorganized rioting can be expected.

Apart from the raid on the underground vaults of the Treasury the average loss in burglaries, etc., is said to have been less than 10,000 francs. The fact is that hardly a day passes

ENGLAND'S PAPERS
SUSPEND 3 DAYS

Triple Holiday Isolates Public From World News; Many Protests.

Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LONDON, Dec. 25.—For the three days just passed, England has been without newspapers, and never before, says The Times, has it parted company with its readers for so long a period. This was due to the general agreement that no papers should be published on Christmas Day, Sunday the 26th and Boxing Day, the 27th. Fathers of families, monopolized as they were on Christmas morning by children eager to display new toys, yet had an uncomfortable feeling that a familiar feature of the breakfast table was missing—a feeling which became intensified as Sunday passed. By yesterday morning the complete absence of news of the outside world developed a sense almost of isolation, and the return of the papers this morning was eagerly welcomed.

Journalists yesterday were continually made aware of the news hunger provoked by the suspension of newspaper publication. Friends and even casual acquaintances stopped them in the streets or telephoned to ask if anything important had happened during the holidays. Some came asking about news from abroad. Had D'Annunzio surrendered? Others wanted to know if there had been any demonstrations by the unemployed, or how Ireland had taken the new basis of the Home Rule act. There were questions about football results. Interests varied, but there seemed to be a fresh realization of the extent to which the public is dependent on the press for information and even subject matter for conversation.

Newspapers were missed most of all by people who had to travel to and from London by the train. The habit of reading in the train has become a habit with many people produced from their position yesterday morning. The railway carriage in one compartment on the Brighton line a census of the reading matter occupying the attention of eight passengers gave the following returns: Two novels, three monthly magazines of the popular type, a book on golf, an old weekly journal, and a copy of a four days' old evening paper. (Much to his satisfaction) in his overcoat.

An observant traveler on another line reports that his fellow passengers passed the journey by reading, according to their tastes. "The Arabian Nights," a novel, Andersen's Fairy Tales, a magazine, "True Stories of Historical Characters," a book on the history of the Christmas stocking, and a copy of a football club's programme. The people who were without anything to read regarded quite enviously those who had books.

Outside Charing Cross underground station yesterday an enterprising news vendor displayed an old contents bill bearing the names of the various papers. People who were attracted by the poster found that by paying a penny they could look at a list of football results.

PORTUGUESE WOMEN
OFFER TO BE HOSTAGES

Wanted Political Prisoners to Go Home for Christmas.

Special Correspondence to THE NEW YORK HERALD.

LISBON, Dec. 24.—Inspired by true Christmas spirit about 100 Portuguese women, headed by two poetesses, Dona Branco Colaco and Dona Maria Vaz de Carvalho, offered themselves as hostages to the Government to-day so that political prisoners might go home and have Christmas dinner with their families.

Premier Liberto Pinto, who received the delegation of women, declared that while he was in sympathy with the spirit of their offer he could not grant their request without submitting it to the entire Cabinet. So the Premier called a meeting of the Cabinet which after praising the women for their noble spirit decided that the question had to be decided by Parliament. But was not too late to bring the matter before that body and so no prisoners were released.

MOVIES BEAT LEGIT. 27-1.

264 Motion Picture Theatres 34 for Spoken Drama.

BIG RUBBER DEAL
WITH SORETS HAS
UNCERTAIN BASIS

W. F. Regan, Holder of Contract, Has Safe Stacked With Russian Rubles.

TRYING TO SELL THEM

London Financier Remarks They Won't Be Accepted Even as Wall Paper.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, London, Jan. 15.

With Leonid Krassine, Bolshevik trade envoy to London, now on his way back to Russia, there are plenty of Russian ruble notes here, if any one wants to take a "flier" at such an uncertain medium of exchange. They can be bought of W. F. Regan, secretary of the Rubber Planters Union, who has been spreading much publicity for some months about firms opening trade with the Soviets. This reported contract to supply the Russians with £2,000,000 worth of rubber was heralded in certain circles as indicating the possibilities of Russian trade even without official relations between the two Governments.

But a peep given The New York Herald correspondent here into the safe in Mr. Regan's office only served to emphasize the "possibilities" which cloud all these Russian trade deals, including Sir Robert Horne's audiences with Krassine on this side of the Atlantic and Washington B. Vanderbilt's difficulties in the United States.

Method of Payment.

Mr. Regan, in telling how he is getting payment for his rubber, reached his hand into the safe and pulled out five notes, each for 5,000 rubles, with piles of similar notes stacked up in the safe. He said he was selling these notes in London to get payment for his goods, but his stuffed safe did not speak well for the activity of the London market for rubles.

Mr. Regan is a vigorous Irishman, who speaks as intimately of all the American States as he does of his own County Galway. Recently he figured that class optimists were trying to settle the Irish problem by bringing the factions together.

He came into the limelight here in connection with his Russian trade deal. He said that the first shipment of rubber to Russia was going directly from London, and that he was taking rubles in payment, and apparently he has taken a large number of them. Recently he advertised in a financial daily newspaper:

"We will sell in small lots up to 100,000 Russian rubles received in exchange on rubber contracts."

This was answered by one financier with the statement that "Russian rubles won't sell here even for wall paper, because it is badly designed."

Confident Prediction.

Meanwhile the Financial News says: "If Russia's supply of rubber is contingent upon Regan's realizing in this country on Russian rubles I am afraid shipments of rubber to Russia will be on a very great scale."

Mr. Regan, like Mr. Vanderbilt, caused a passing flurry here with his Russian trade talk, but neither he nor any other person has been able to show any sound business man how he is going to get paid.

It was learned officially that the whole British rubber trade deal was tied up by the question of how to get Russian gold, even when it was melted and recoined into Swedish money, without it being attested in England by persons claiming Russian ownership.

This has proved such a problem for Krassine and the British Board of Trade that the Russian trade envoy has returned to Moscow for further instructions.

Meanwhile Mr. Regan has got his safe full of rubles, which are now stored in Moscow. He is now waiting for the question of how to get Russian gold, even when it was melted and recoined into Swedish money, without it being attested in England by persons claiming Russian ownership.

They may go only as far as Steps of Building.

OLD LAW BARS WOMEN FROM PARIS BOURSE

They May Go Only as Far as Steps of Building.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Jan. 15.

Woman suffrage advocates have not yet reached the hearts of French lawmakers to such an extent that they are willing to abrogate the eighteenth century decree barring women from setting foot inside the Paris Bourse. Five to ten thousand women frequently are spectators of the lively scenes that take place on the steps of the Bourse, but apparently the sight of the howling brokers is a sufficient warning to them to remain at a safe distance behind the iron bars watching the sterner sex battling for fortunes.

BUREAU REAIRE
IS SIGHT UNDER
OLD PARIS HOUSE

Court to Decide Rights of Present and Former Owners to Explore.

AN ANCIENT TRADITION

One Theory Dates It Back to Charles de Savoisy, Banished in 1401.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Jan. 15.

Deep under the musty cellars of a fifteenth century building at 13 Rue Pave a vast gold treasure may be discovered if the Paris courts give the present owner the right to explore and the past owners relinquish their legal rights to any wealth which may be unearthed. The application for permission to explore is now pending before three special experts appointed by the Seine Tribunal, and it is hoped to commence work before spring.

So confident is the present owner that the tradition is reliable that he has raised a large sum of money to erect the necessary structural supports to prevent the collapse of the age worn building.

No one knows just when the gold, estimated to represent as much as 5,000,000 francs, as well as great quantities of gold plate and jewels, actually were buried. Some say it was during the religious wars in the latter part of the sixteenth century. Others whose family records do not reach back so far are inclined to believe the fantastic tale had its origin during the Revolution. Still another theory is that Charles de Savoisy, banished from France in 1401 by Charles VI, buried the fortune there and escaped. When the King heard of De Savoisy's escape he ordered his house destroyed. In 1871, when the De Savoisy family returned to Paris, he could never get permission to rebuild his house. It was not until 1917 that his heirs reconstructed the place, but the De Savoisy family records do not mention anything about a fortune having been hidden there.

BULGARS BLAMING WIVES OF LEADERS

Being Called to Account for Influence in War.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—The wives of prominent Bulgarian politicians and Generals are being called to account by the Bulgarian Government whenever it is proved that their influence over their husbands has caused them to take political or military action to the nation.

The wives of several public men and Generals have already been made responsible for disastrous results of the war owing to the influence they exerted over their husbands, says the newspaper Atrix, published in Sofia.

MILLION SURPLUS WOMEN IN ENGLAND

Only Chance of Their Marrying Is by Emigrating.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—"Jillless Jacks" are emigrating in considerable numbers from England in the hope of finding suitable "Jillless Jacks" for husbands in the United States, according to Nora March, chairman of the National British Women's who may never marry" before the National British Rate Commission have been widely discussed in the British press.

Government figures show there is a surplus of a million women in England and that the number of women who are migrating to some part of the earth where there is a more even distribution of the sexes. According to Miss March, they are doing it. She says she is receiving letters from America that tell of "significant of the loneliness of some men's lives."

"Women are outstripping to-day," she added. "Many are emigrating who a few years ago would have feared to take the great adventure."

Judging from an official report prepared by the Census Bureau in Washington indicating there are nearly ten million bachelors in the United States above the age of 20, there is considerable consolation in story for the English "Jills."

OLD BRITISH TROPHIES SOLD AT AUCTION

Roman Battle Standard and Chair Go for 200 Pounds.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—Great Britain's most ancient military trophies, a Roman battle standard and a Roman general's folding camp chair, have been sold for £200 at a London auction room. The antiquities were dug up in Essex a century ago.

Experts believe that the battle standard and the camp chair were captured by the Romans in the disaster that overtook the Roman Ninth legion in A. D. 61, when Boadicea, Queen of the Iceni, cut the legions to pieces and it advanced to the Roman Ninth legion, surprised and destroyed it. The cavalry alone got away, and it is believed that the relics were abandoned on the field.

The standard and the chair are in perfect preservation. The former is a slight and elegant thing in bronze, topped by four laurel wreaths of diminishing size. Below is a medallion, bearing on one side a portrait of Nero and on the other an infant in armor holding the Cup of the Conqueror. The chair is a simple wooden chair with a palm branch and a wreath. The chair is beautifully worked in iron overlaid in silver, folding like a modern camp stool.

GERMAN RUSES TO SECRETE AIRPLANE EQUIPMENT FAIL

Interallied Control Officers Discover Trick in One of Hugo Stinnes's Berlin Factories—Hausfrau Concealed Magnetos in Child's Bedroom.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Jan. 15.

The duplicity the Germans employ in secreting airplane equipment in violation of the treaty of Versailles is frequently given rise to amusing incidents, according to reports reaching official quarters here. The latest of these occurred in one of Hugo Stinnes's Berlin factories, where interallied control officers agreed to inspect the three lower floors of a six story building in the morning and the other three floors after luncheon.

All went well until one of the French officers during the afternoon returned to the second floor for a notebook he had dropped there. To his surprise he found the employees of the place during the luncheon hour had transferred there sixty complete motors from the upper rooms.

Gen. Nollet, head of the control commission, has reported a case of a German school mistress who fell under suspicion by the control experts. Although she protested that she did not know an airplane part from a pretzel, forty magnetos were discovered under her kitchen table. When officers tried to open what was supposed to be a child's bedroom this patriotic frau dramatically placed herself in front of the door, swearing by all Deutschland's gods they would enter the room only over her dead body. She is still alive, however, but the control officers found fifty complete helices, a score of magnetos and numerous altitude barometric appliances.

Not the least striking feature of this case arose a few days later when the woman demanded damages to the amount of 200,000 marks for violation of the privacy of her domicile, but Gen. Nollet personally interpreted the treaty's clauses for the German judges and the case was dropped.

NO REVEL OF NUNS, VILLAGERS INSIST

Only One Old Man of 80 Had Access to Alsatian Convent Now Under Ban.

The sensational edict against the Mariental Convent in Alsace has provoked numerous rumors as to the real reason for banning all Catholics from contact with the nuns of that institution. The devout villagers of Mariental, however, refuse to believe them guilty of anything but the crime of being French during the days of German occupation, and are openly declaring that the Papal nuncio sent to investigate the charges brought by nuns who were expelled because they refused French nationality was prejudiced in his reports to the Vatican.

The first report that the nuns had indulged in wild revels sent to have been branded as false, although certain Alsatian ecclesiastics said that when the Pope's messenger sought entrance to certain rooms of the convent he was told bluntly that even the Pope did not have the right to interfere with the order of interior affairs to that extent. The trouble seems to have arisen over the refusal of the convent to give up certain endowments entrusted to it by nuncios returning the order who later decided to enter the convent.

In some cases, it is said, resignation from the order was obtained by officials only when the nuns signed a certificate relinquishing all claims on convent superiors. Naturally German members of the Mariental convent refused to do this. The result was that the Vatican ordered a special inspection. Mariental folk repudiate the idea that the nuns have gained a reputation for self-denial and piety, could be guilty of immoral revels. They point out that the confessor for the convent is an infirm priest and that the nuns are the only male ever entering the precincts. The population also is increased over the reported methods of intrigue used by the Vatican's emissaries. When they learned the villagers were not accepting the Pope's ruling, prohibiting all intercourse with society to the nuns, it is charged the Pope's envoy endeavored to persuade the villagers to return to deliver letters to the convent. This phase of the situation is likely to arouse official investigation by the French postal authorities.

FRENCH WAIF FALLS HEIR TO FORTUNE

Inherits 1,500,000 Francs From Foster Mother.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Jan. 15.

How Fortune smiled on an abandoned baby has just been told by Councillor Rebillard of the Paris Municipal Council in a report on the administration of the poor funds. Just before the war the police here found an infant well wrapped and in a basket which had been left on one of the Seine bridges. Without sign of identification the baby was taken to a public orphanage, where a few months later she attracted the attention of a wealthy visitor from the north of France, who agreed to adopt her as her daughter.

This woman died last month, and when her will was read there was found a colossal legacy of a substantial sum, for the care of the homeless children of Paris, while the remainder of her estate, estimated to be worth between a million and a half and two million francs, was left to her adopted daughter. The identity of this woman is not mentioned in M. Rebillard's report lest it might in the future prove injurious to the social career of the one true waif.

POLAND TO AD ORPHANS.

Unique Provision in Country's New Constitution.

LONDON, Jan. 15.—Poland's new constitution probably will contain a provision for care of children by the state which will make it unique, in opinion of officials here who have seen the draft. The article reads: "Each child deprived of parental care or who is neglected morally or materially has the right to secure care and aid from the state. The sphere of the state's duties in this capacity will be defined separately by laws which will foresee as well the protection of mothers who may require aid before the birth of the child and the protection of the child in infancy."

As far as is known here no constitution in the world includes such a provision.

BRITAIN AWAKENS TO OPPORTUNITY IN CIVIL AIR TRAFFIC

Has Fallen Behind France and Germany in Commercial Development.

\$300,000 GRANT IS GIVEN

Needs of Service Far Different From Those Involved in Military Action.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, London, Jan. 15.

"The British Government at last has followed the policy of the French and German Governments and has taken a step toward the development of civil aviation. This is indicated by an announcement from the Air Ministry of a grant of \$300,000 a year for direct assistance to companies engaging in air traffic. The advisory committee suggested twice that amount, but while the grant is small it is looked upon as a step in the right direction and one which will serve as an inspiration for progress."

The money is available for companies operating over approved air routes on a basis of 25 per cent. of the total revenue earned by carrying passengers, mails and goods. The grant becomes effective the first of next year. A company in order to obtain the benefit of the grant must show that it has developed business and flying time equal to a certain minimum which will be stipulated under the rules of the grant, and it must use aircraft of British manufacture fitted with British made engines.

More Routes Are Planned.

The routes thus far approved are all trans-channel flights to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam. Very extensive and additional routes are planned, and will be announced before the grant becomes effective. The grant comes just in time to prevent a big decline in British aviation development. Recently two companies suspended business and aviation in England generally was in a dead way. It is now thought that the two dispirited companies will try again and that others will enter the field.

The delay before the money becomes available is considered a serious handicap, however, as last year France alone spent twice that much in developing French civil aviation, and therefore advanced considerably, while Britain went back to the drawing boards. The grant will try again and that others will enter the field.

The bill has been submitted to the parliament, administrative commission for consideration. It will come up for a vote early next month.

NO SMOKES, NO TAXES, IS FRENCHMEN'S EDICT

Howl Against Tobacco Monopoly Becomes Louder.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, Paris, Jan. 15.

You cannot get a Frenchman to pay taxes unless you give him his weekly share of tobacco, in the latest argument by devotees of Lady Nicotine, who are appealing to the minister of Finance to terminate the onerous system of tobacco distribution here, and which American tobacco interests last year tried to revise by the outright purchase of the French tobacco monopoly. "Cigars, cigarettes and the ordinary packets of the 'weed' are obtainable only in Government controlled shops, which usually are conducted in connection with small cafes. Naturally the proprietors of these places save their French tobacco supplies, which are cheap, and then import foreign cigarettes, while ordinary citizens are forced to give up smoking because they cannot pay the prices demanded for the expensive imported brands."

The Journal des Debats, a leading political newspaper of Paris, has taken up the campaign for a modern system of distribution, and declares: "Disorder is contagious in an orderly Government. When the tobacco monopoly is disordered, when the clocks show the correct hour, when telephone operators begin to give correct numbers and when other details of daily life become orderly Frenchmen will give their loyal cooperation in rebuilding the finances of the country."

LONDON BOY WINS GIRL IN THE ROPED ARENA

Consents to Return Match After the Honeymoon.

Special Cable to THE NEW YORK HERALD, Copyright, 1921, by THE NEW YORK HERALD. New York Herald Bureau, London, Jan. 15.

There was more than a purse of \$100 at stake when the two young boxers, John Shear and John Staple, engaged in a furious ten round bout in Hammer-smith Hall. The real prize for which they battled and which made the fight all the more desperate was the hand of Miss Rose Clarke, a pretty telephone operator, who simply could not decide which one of the two young men she loved the more. Unable to decide the great question in any other way, she finally agreed to marry the winner of the boxing match.

Shear cut off Staple's hopes by winning the match on points. But Staple was not satisfied with the referee's decision and protested. But the referee only shrugged his shoulders and said: "Tell it to the girl."

In desperation Staple went to Shear and asked for a return match. "Rights" was Shear's cheerful reply. "After the honeymoon."

Opera Prices Soar in Vienna.

VIENNA, Jan. 15.—Prices of the state opera and the state theatre again have been increased, until a box at the opera now costs 288,000 crowns for 200 performances, as against 1,350 crowns in the old days.